

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A disposable feminine hygiene paper-based product formed from paper mulch selected from the group consisting of sanitary napkins, sanitary pads, panty shields and tampons for combating yeast infections, said feminine hygiene paper product comprising a plurality of dark-brown fibers wherein said fibers are coated with an anti-fungal Cu^{++} -cationic, water-insoluble form of copper oxide directly bound to the fibers, which fibers have been added to said paper mulch and which fibers release Cu^{++} ions when in contact with a fluid.
2. **(original)** A disposable feminine hygiene paper product according to claim 1 wherein said fibers are cellulosic fibers.
3. **(original)** A disposable feminine hygiene paper product according to claim 1 wherein said coated fibers are disposed in said feminine hygiene paper product as randomly scattered fibers in a paper layer.
4. **(original)** A disposable feminine hygiene paper product according to claim 1 wherein said coated fibers are dispersed in said feminine hygiene paper product in a layer positioned in said product in contact with the genital area of the user.
5. **(currently amended)** A method for the manufacture of a disposable feminine hygiene paper product formed from paper mulch for combating yeast infections comprising incorporating into said paper mulch a plurality of dark-brown fibers coated with an anti-fungal Cu^{++} -cationic, water-insoluble form of copper oxide directly bound to the fibers, which fibers release Cu^{++} ions when in contact with a fluid, wherein said fibers are provided in a layer of said disposable product formed from said mulch adapted to be in contact with the genital area of the user.

6. **(original)** A method according to claim 5 wherein said fibers are cellulosic fibers.
7. **(new)** The method of claim 5, wherein the fibers are finely chopped before addition to said paper mulch.